



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Joint Subcommittee Studying Open Space and Farmland Preservation
(Senators Hanger, Watkins, Herring; Delegates E.Scott, Orrock, Wright, Cline, Lewis,
Eisenberg)

Members, Virginia Land Conservation Foundation

Natural Resource Agency Directors

FROM: Joseph H. Maroon, DCR Director

DATE: November 16, 2007

RE: Correction in Number of Acres Protected in Virginia Bay Watershed

CC: Honorable Preston Bryant, Secretary of Natural Resources
Honorable Robert Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry
Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources
Susan Bulbulkaya, Chesapeake Bay Commission
Clyde Cristman, Senate Finance Committee
Paul VanLenten, House Appropriations
Mark Vucci, Division of Legislative Service

As you will see from the attached memo, staff at the Department of Conservation and Recreation just completed an exhaustive quality control process of Virginia's database of protected lands. They have discovered a significant error made back in 2000 in the original calculation of the number of acres of protected land that existed in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Given the significance of the discovery, I wanted to be sure this information was immediately brought to your attention.

The correction of this error tempers the amount of progress Virginia has made towards meeting the regional goal of permanently protecting 20% of the land in the Bay watershed by 2010. Although the Commonwealth has protected 2.4 million acres in the Bay watershed, we had approximately 360,000 acres left to protect as of June 20, 2007. The updated data will be included in all future reports referencing Virginia's land conservation progress toward the bay goal. Please feel free to contact me if you have specific questions regarding this matter. Thank you.